

B. Claims

Please amend claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 20 and 31-34 as follows. In accordance with the revised amendment format, a complete listing of all the claims appears below; this listing replaces all earlier amendments and listings of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A calcium fortified beverage composition consisting of:

purified water, and

a calcium source consisting of a hydrate form of calcium sulfate,

wherein said calcium source provides ~~at least~~ about 10% U.S. RDV of calcium per serving of said calcium fortified beverage composition.

2. (Previously Presented) The calcium fortified beverage composition according to claim 1, wherein the hydrate form of calcium sulfate is calcium sulfate dihydrate.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A calcium fortified beverage composition consisting of:

purified water,

one or more non-mineral nutritional supplements, and

a calcium source consisting of a hydrate form of calcium sulfate,
wherein said calcium source provides ~~at least~~ about 10% U.S. RDV of
calcium per serving of said calcium fortified beverage composition.

5. (Previously Presented) The calcium fortified beverage composition
according to claim 4, wherein the non-mineral nutritional supplement is chosen from the
group consisting of vitamin A, vitamin D, tocopherol, ascorbic acid, thiamine, riboflavin,
vitamin B₆, vitamin B₁₂, vitamin K, niacin, folic acid, biotin, and combinations thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) A calcium fortified beverage composition
consisting of:
purified water,
a flavor component, and
a calcium source consisting of a hydrate form of calcium sulfate,
wherein said calcium source provides ~~at least~~ about 10% U.S. RDV of
calcium per serving of said calcium fortified beverage composition.

7. (Original) The calcium fortified beverage composition according to claim
6, wherein the flavor component is selected from fruit flavors, botanical flavors, and
mixtures thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) A calcium fortified beverage composition consisting of:

- purified water,
- a preservative system, and
- a calcium source consisting of a hydrate form of calcium sulfate,

wherein said calcium source provides ~~at least~~ about 10% U.S. RDV of calcium per serving of said calcium fortified beverage composition.

9. (Original) The calcium fortified beverage composition according to claim 8, wherein the preservative system is selected from the group consisting of sodium benzoate, potassium benzoate, sodium sorbate, potassium sorbate, EDTA, BHA, BHT, TBHQ, dehydroacetic acid, dimethyldicarbonate, ethoxyquin, heptylparaben, and combinations thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a calcium fortified beverage composition comprising:

- (a) combining a ready to drink beverage and a calcium source consisting of a hydrate form of calcium sulfate to form a solution,

wherein said calcium source provides ~~at least~~ about 10% U.S. RDV of calcium per serving of said calcium fortified beverage composition; and

- (b) preserving the solution to form the calcium fortified beverage composition.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the hydrate form of calcium sulfate is calcium sulfate dihydrate.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of adding one or more non-mineral nutritional supplements prior to step (b).

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the one or more non-mineral nutritional supplements is chosen from the group consisting of vitamin A, vitamin D, tocopherol, ascorbic acid, thiamine, riboflavin, vitamin B₆, vitamin B₁₂, vitamin K, niacin, folic acid, biotin, and combinations thereof.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein step (b) comprises subjecting the solution to a pasteurization process.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the pasteurization process is chosen from the group consisting of hot-filling, aseptic packaging, ozonation, radiation, UV light, high pressure, membrane permeation, pulsed electric field, sonication, and combinations thereof.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10 further comprising the step of adding one or more flavor components prior to step (b).

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the one or more flavor components is chosen from the group consisting of fruit flavors, botanical flavors, and mixtures thereof.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the ready to drink beverage is purified water.

20. (Currently Amended) A beverage composition consisting of:
purified water, and
~~at least~~ about 10% U.S. RDV of calcium per serving of said beverage composition,
wherein the beverage composition is produced by combining purified water and a calcium source consisting of a hydrate form of calcium sulfate to form a solution.

21. - 24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The beverage composition according to claim 20, wherein the hydrate form of calcium sulfate is calcium sulfate dihydrate.

26. - 28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A method of providing ~~at least~~ about 10% of the U.S. RDV of calcium to a subject comprising administering to the subject the calcium fortified beverage composition of claim 1.

30. (Currently Amended) A method of providing ~~at least~~ about 10% of the U.S. RDV of calcium to a subject comprising administering to the subject the beverage composition of claim 20.

31. (Currently Amended) A calcium fortified beverage composition consisting of:

purified water,

one or more non-mineral nutritional supplements,

a flavor component,

a preservative system, and

a calcium source consisting of a hydrate form of calcium sulfate,

wherein said calcium source provides ~~at least~~ about 10% U.S. RDV of calcium per serving of said calcium fortified beverage composition.

32. (Currently Amended) A calcium fortified beverage composition consisting of:

purified water,
one or more non-mineral nutritional supplements,
a preservative system, and
a calcium source consisting of a hydrate form of calcium sulfate,
wherein said calcium source provides ~~at least~~ about 10% U.S. RDV of
calcium per serving of said calcium fortified beverage composition.

33. (Currently Amended) A calcium fortified beverage composition
consisting of:

purified water,
one or more non-mineral nutritional supplements,
a flavor component, and
a calcium source consisting of a hydrate form of calcium sulfate,
wherein said calcium source provides ~~at least~~ about 10% U.S. RDV of
calcium per serving of said calcium fortified beverage composition.

34. (Currently Amended) A calcium fortified beverage composition
consisting of:

purified water,
a flavor component,
a preservative system, and
a calcium source consisting of a hydrate form of calcium sulfate,

wherein said calcium source provides ~~at least~~ about 10% U.S. RDV of calcium per serving of said calcium fortified beverage composition.